

Open Meeting
Freiburg, Germany
Tuesday, October 7th, 2008
7:30-9:00 AM

Jennifer Tetzlaff, Coordinator

Agenda

- 7:30-7:45 - Introduction to Bias Methods Group
- 7:45-8:25 - BMG Member presentations
- 8:25-8:55 - Debate: use of funnel plots and testing for publication bias
Alex Sutton vs. Christopher Schmid
- 8:55-9:00 - Concluding remarks

Bias Methods Group (BMG)

- **The BMG** is 1 of 13 Cochrane Methods Groups world-wide comprised of individuals with an interest and expertise in the science of systematic reviews
- **BMG** investigates a range of different forms of bias
 - Members share an interest in raising awareness of the problem of bias in reviews and developing solutions to reduce their impact



Cochrane Bias Methods Group (BMG)

BMG Members

- The **BMG** has approximately **85** members from across **17** countries on **5** continents.
- **Co-convenors:**
 - David Moher, Ottawa, Canada
 - Jonathan Sterne, Bristol, UK
 - Doug Altman, Oxford, UK
- **Coordinator:**
 - Jennifer Tetzlaff, Ottawa, Canada



Cochrane Bias Methods Group (BMG)

Located in Ottawa, Canada



As of October, 2008 the BMG is affiliated with the Ottawa Health Research Institute



Cochrane Bias Methods Group
The BMG is administered by the Ottawa Health Research Institute (BMG)

BMG Funding

- **Thank you to our funders**
 - The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
 - Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH)
- **Current 5-year grant provides the BMG with infrastructure funding to September 2010**
 - Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre (CCN/C) is coordinating initiatives for renewed funding
- **This infrastructure support enables:**
 - workshops
 - dissemination activities
 - web hosting
 - travel and training opportunities



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BMG activities

- Policy advice and support to the Collaboration
- Methodological research
- Author training workshops
- Methodology reviews



Cochrane Bias Methods Group
The BMG is administered by the Cochrane Research Team (BMG)
based at the Cochrane Research Team

Collaboration activities

- **Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Healthcare Interventions**
 - BMG convenors (2) and members (7) on Handbook Advisory Group
 - All BMG entity staff and various members involved in development of revised Handbook as Editors (8) or contributing authors (14)
 - BMG-specific chapters
 - Chapter 8: Assessing risk of bias in included studies (edited by Higgins and Altman)
 - Chapter 10: Addressing reporting biases (edited by Sterne, Moher and Egger)
- **Provide policy advice and support to the Collaboration**
 - Two BMG members currently members of Steering Group
 - One convenor member of Updating Working Group
 - Specific requests from the collaboration

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Methodological research

- **Cochrane Risk of Bias tool (led by Julian Higgins)**
 - The BMG entity staff and members have played a role in:
 - Tool development
 - Dissemination
 - Author training workshops
 - Support to review groups (ad hoc)
- **BMG members actively involved in researching systematic review methodology**
 - Both BMG-specific and other (e.g. searching, statistical methods)

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Workshops

- **Symposia**
 - Canadian Cochrane Symposium, Canada, 2007
 - Canadian Cochrane Symposium, Canada, 2008
 - Plenary session: RoB tables (Doug Altman)
 - Workshops: RoB tables (Doug Altman, David Moher, Jennifer Tetzlaff); Selective outcome reporting (Doug Altman)
 - Pre-symposium author training – Revman 5.0 (Jennifer Tetzlaff)
- **Colloquia**
 - XV Cochrane Colloquium, Brazil, 2007
 - Workshops: RoB tables (Julian Higgins, Peter Jüni, Nandi Siegfried, Sally Hopewell); Investigating bias in reviews (Peter Jüni, Simon Wandel)
- **Train-the-trainer**
 - Cochrane Train-the-trainer, Canada, 2008 (David Moher)
 - Cochrane Train-the-trainer, UK, 2008 (Jonathan Sterne, Doug Altman)
- **Special session**
 - Risk of Bias Tables, Canada, 2007 (Julian Higgins (hosted by CCNC))

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Workshops

- **Bias in systematic reviews and meta-analyses**
 - Edmonton, Canada, December, 2007
 - 1.5-day course; intermediate/advanced; didactic and group work
 - 36 participants from Canada and the USA
 - Topics
 - Introduction to bias in randomized trials
 - Risk of Bias tool
 - Selective outcome reporting
 - Publication bias
 - Incorporating quality assessments in systematic reviews

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Methodology reviews

BMG has worked to increase our contribution to Methodology reviews in the Cochrane Library

A "methodology review" is a systematic review of methodological studies

Title	Authors	Publication
Recent publications		
Time to publication for results of clinical trials	Hopewell S, Clarke MJ, Stewart L, Tierney J	CDSR 2007, Issue 2
*When and how to update systematic reviews.	Moher D, Barrowman N, Daniel R, Eccles M, Grimshaw J, Sampson M, Tricco A, Tsertsvadze A.	CDSR 2008, Issue 1
Ongoing research		
Publication bias in clinical trials (Protocol).	Hopewell S, Dickersin K, Clarke MJ, Oxman AD, Loudon K.	CDSR 2007, Issue 2
*Blinded versus unblinded assessments of risk-of-bias in studies included in a systematic review (Protocol).	Moher D, Horsley T, Morgan K, Tricco A, Tsertsvadze A.	CDSR 2007, Issue 4
*Checking reference lists to find additional studies for systematic reviews.	Horsley T, Dingwall O, Tetzlaff J, Sampson M.	Protocol submitted for publication in CDSR 2009, Issue 1.
Registered titles/protocols in development		
*Tests for Funnel Plot Asymmetry.	Sterne JAC, Egger M, Moher D, Harbord RM, Tetzlaff JM,	Title registered 13 Nov, 2007
*Comparison of trials protocols to published reports.	Smyth R, Altman D, Dwan K, Williamson P.	Title registration currently under review

Future BMG priorities

- **Policy support**
 - Maintain activity with the Canadian Cochrane Network & Centre (CCNC)
 - Ad hoc guidance for the Cochrane Collaboration
 - Serve as a forum for discussion (members e-mailing list, BMG website, CCinfo/Methods group newsletters, monthly co-convenors teleconference)
- **Methodological research**
 - Ongoing projects (e.g. BRANDO study, PRISMA statement)
- **Workshops**
 - Presence at Colloquia and Symposia
 - Training and training materials - focus activities on Train-the-trainer and open access materials
 - BMG-specific workshop
- **Methodology reviews**
 - Priority topic list (generated by BMG members early 2007); likely to be updated early 2009.

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How you can get involved

- **Keep us informed of your BMG-related activities**
- **Contact us for support**
 - With BMG-related methodology reviews
 - e.g. administrative support, training, methodological advice, methodological support (e.g. additional reviewers).
 - Facilitating Cochrane or BMG-specific workshops
 - e.g. Slides, materials, outlines
- **Suggest priority topics during update questionnaire**
- **Become a BMG member!**

please contact jtetzlaff@cheo.on.ca

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Website: www.chalmersresearch.com/bmg



Cochrane Bias Methods Group (BMG)

Presenters

- **An-Wen Chan:** Discrepancies in sample size calculations and data analysis reported in randomized trials: comparison of publications with protocols
- **Barney Reeves:** Findings of the International Subarachnoid Aneurysm Trial and the National Study of Subarachnoid Haemorrhage in context: a case study
- **Britta Tendam:** Observer variation when extracting data for the calculation of the standardized mean difference
- **James Carpenter:** A multiple imputation approach to adjust for publication bias.

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